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G, INL, DRL, PRM, IWI, EUR/PGI  
G/TIP FOR MEGAN HALL  
EUR/NCE FOR BART PUTNEY

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SUBJECT: POLAND: SEVENTH ANNUAL (2007) TRAFFICKING IN  
PERSONS REPORT SUBMISSION

REF: 06 STATE 202745

¶1. (SBU) Following are responses keyed to questions in paragraphs 27-31 of REFTEL. Embassy point of contact is Political Officer Daniel Gedacht (telephone: 48-22-504-2621, fax 48-22-504-2613, e-mail GedachtDC@state.gov). POLOFF (FO-04) spent 45 hours collecting data and compiling report; one political locally engaged staff member spent a total of 45 hours collecting data.

¶2. (SBU) OVERVIEW: Answers keyed to para 27 of REFTEL

27A. Poland is a country of origin, transit and destination for trafficking in persons. The main groups at risk are unemployed women, women from the poorest regions of Poland, and victims of domestic violence. Some trafficking occurs within Poland's

borders, but most cases involve women and children being trafficked to, from, or through Poland. The illicit nature of trafficking in persons makes it difficult to determine the number of victims, particularly those of Polish citizenship, and estimates vary substantially. The main sources for information and statistics contained in this cable are international and local non-governmental organizations (NGOs), UN officials, OSCE/ODIHR contacts, and Polish officials, including those in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior Affairs and Administration, Ministry of Justice, Border Guards and National Police. All of these have proven to be reliable sources.

27B. Since Poland joined the European Union in 2004 there has been a notable rise in trafficking of Polish men and women to EU countries for forced labor. Persons are trafficked to and through Poland from countries to the east and southeast, primarily Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus, Bulgaria, Romania, Lithuania, and Russia. There are also growing reports of Vietnamese nationals, along with small but notable numbers of Cameroonians, Somalis, and Ugandans being trafficked into, within, and through Poland. Ukraine continues to serve as the greatest source of persons trafficked through Poland, with Moldova also serving as a substantial source. Poles and foreigners are trafficked to Western Europe, especially Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Italy, the

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Netherlands, Spain, and Sweden, as well as to Japan and Israel. Police statistics based on arrests and other direct contacts indicate that about 30 percent of the 7,300 prostitutes known to be working in Poland are of foreign origin. Most trafficking involves women trafficked into the sex trade, however, police and NGO experts estimate there is a growing percentage of victims forced to work in agricultural or other menial trades, a fact highlighted by two high-profile cases in 2006 of organized trafficking rings of Poles for forced labor (para 29J).

Political will to combat trafficking in persons remains strong; during the year the government allocated approximately \$130,000 from the national budget to implement the National Anti-Trafficking Action Plan developed by the Interagency Anti-Trafficking Working Group (the "Interagency Working Group.") NGO experts report that their cooperation with the government continues to improve.

Victims are trafficked to Poland primarily for work in "massage parlors" and "escort agencies," i.e., brothels. However, there have also been documented cases of victims forced to work in agriculture, in sweatshops and forced to beg on the streets. Victims in the sex trade are forced to work as nude dancers or prostitutes, and are often deprived of their passports and identity papers, and threatened with violence. In the case of forced prostitution, victims failing to service a minimum number of clients each day may suffer physical abuse. Police estimate 750 "escort agencies" operate in Poland, with approximately 3,500 women working in them. Press and NGO sources, meanwhile, put the number of women working in all elements of the sex industry in Poland at anywhere from 18,000 to 20,000.

Traffickers in Poland target young, unemployed or poorly paid Polish women for the sex trade, and poor men and women for labor. They focus on individuals with poor family ties and weak support networks. According to the NGO La Strada, 80 percent of Polish victims are under 24 years of age. Traffickers

approach young victims with promises of lucrative jobs in Western Europe as domestic workers, dancers, cooks, agricultural laborers, or wait staff. The victims are told that their handlers will take care of all documentation and are asked to turn over their

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passports. While some of the victims may know they are involved in an illegal employment ploy, most do not realize that they will be performing forced sexual services or labor. A second method of recruitment is for a trafficker, usually residing permanently outside Poland, to feign emotional involvement and persuade his future victim to visit him abroad. In both cases, victims are subsequently detained and forced into prostitution through threat, blackmail or violence. Often, traffickers are connected with organized crime syndicates. If a victim is transported with documentation, they travel by train or car; if illegally, they are hidden in trucks or cars, or walk across unguarded borders.

27C. There are no limitations on Poland's law-enforcement activities, but government efforts on education and victim assistance have been primarily carried out by NGOs using increasing amounts of local and national government funding along with foreign government funding. According to the coordinator of the Interagency Working Group, officers from various government agencies were trained in identification of trafficking victims and victim assistance in all of the 16 Polish provinces during the year. All incoming National Police are reported to receive basic instruction on the subject. Police and border guards participated in joint training exercises with the United States, Great Britain, and Ukraine, and GOP officials welcome victim assistance and other advanced training programs.

Poland's criminal code outlaws human trafficking, but does not specifically define it. NGOs, law enforcement, and prosecutors generally use the 2001 Palermo Protocol definition in addressing human trafficking; however NGOs claim that the absence of such a definition in national law is problematic because prosecutors and especially judges are not sufficiently well informed or aware of the offense. The Interagency Working Group ranks amending the criminal code to incorporate the Palermo Protocol definition as a major priority of the National Action Plan for 2007-2008.

Proper identification of victims of trafficking is another problem. Despite increased training efforts for police and border guards, countless victims are not properly identified. To address this, Warsaw

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University's Human Trafficking Studies Center prepared a questionnaire to aid the identification of victims, and a six-month trial is underway in four provinces during the first half of 2007.

The GOP has increased its trafficking awareness program through posters and billboards, as well as by financially supporting NGOs to produce such materials. The high-profile Italian forced labor case (para 29J), in which over 300 Poles were held in forced labor camps, with and the whereabouts of at least nine Polish nationals still unknown, may have had an impact on changing the public's attitude.

27D. During the year, the Interagency Working Group produced a report that summarized the government's

implementation of the 2005-2006 National Action Plan. The National Police Public Affairs Unit informs the public systematically about its efforts and publishes its trafficking statistics annually on its website. The National Prosecutor's Office of the Ministry of Justice maintains records of investigations and legal actions taken against traffickers, and works closely with provincial and local prosecutors to ensure accurate reporting. In addition, La Strada works with the Polish government to document cases.

13. (SBU) PREVENTION: Answers keyed to paragraph 28 of REFTEL

28A. Polish government officials at the highest levels acknowledge the seriousness of the trafficking problem in Poland, and are taking action to address the problem. In January the Interagency Working Group adopted the National Action Plan for Combating and Prevention of Human Trafficking for 2007-2008, which follows on and strengthens the previous Plans from 2003-2004 and 2005-2006.

28B. The National Action Plan was developed by the Interagency Working Group composed of high-level representatives of 12 government agencies, academics and NGOs (Ministries of Interior and Administration, Foreign Affairs, Education, Labor and Social Policy, and Justice; Border Guards and National Police; NGOs Caritas, La Strada, and Nobody's Children, and the University of Zielona Gora). The National Program is a strategy document that seeks to coordinate the efforts of various GOP and private sector entities

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involved in combating trafficking. The Ministry of Interior has the lead in coordinating the working group's activities. The GOP allocated approximately \$2 million to the National Action Plan for trafficking victim's assistance. Outside of this, individual agencies are expected to fund anti-trafficking initiatives from their own budgets.

28 C. During the year, both La Strada and Caritas ran a number of education/prevention campaigns on human trafficking that government bodies funded. Between April and December La Strada organized a series of workshops on human rights and violence against women for at-risk teenage girls living in Warsaw orphanages and child care centers. The Warsaw local government and British Embassy co-funded these sessions. The British Embassy also sponsored a La Strada information campaign in schools in poorer, rural regions. La Strada further organized an awareness campaign at Polish-Ukrainian border crossings aimed at Ukrainian females, and published guidebooks aimed at informing Poles going abroad for work and foreign women coming to Poland to work about the risks of trafficking.

The Catholic NGO Caritas Warsaw used its own funds to organize prevention campaigns in Warsaw high schools. The campaign took the form of two- and four-hour workshops on human trafficking and forced prostitution. Caritas Warsaw also joined an international campaign against trafficking in persons and forced prostitution organized by German and Dutch NGOs for the 2006 World Cup in Germany. In cooperation with the Border Guards and governors of Dolnoslaskie, Lubuskie and Zachodniopomorskie Provinces, Caritas Warsaw distributed more than eight thousand leaflets and two thousand posters in Polish, Bulgarian, Russian, Romanian and English.

The Interagency Working Group sponsored two conferences on trafficking in March and November, which brought together leading national and

international government ministries, law enforcement bodies, and NGOs to highlight the problem of trafficking. A similar conference will take place in June 2007, and the GOP has designated June 11 as "TIP Victims' Day."

28D. The Government of Poland supports a variety of social programs that indirectly work to prevent

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trafficking in persons by promoting the status of women. After the Office of the Government Plenipotentiary for Equal Status of Women and Men closed down in 2005, the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy took over its responsibilities. The Ministry's Department for Women, Family and Counteracting Discrimination is implementing a number of projects aimed at combating gender discrimination at workplaces. Many of the projects are either funded or co-funded by EU structural funds. The projects include research on the status of women in the labor market, promoting gender equality through the internet, and encouraging women to combine family and maternity duties with a career by promoting the sharing of household and parenting duties.

The Department is also implementing an EU Project of 2007 as the "Year of Equal Opportunity." The Project is aimed at combating discrimination on the grounds of sex, race, religion, disability, age, and sexual orientation. The project will give grants to Polish NGOs that carry out various projects/activities combating discrimination.

28E. The GOP recognizes the importance of NGOs and other elements of civil society in preventing trafficking in persons, and actively worked with them to develop the National Action Plan. The GOP relies on and works closely with NGOs for victim protection projects, law-enforcement training, and prevention campaigns. Both government officials and NGO representatives describe the relationship between the GOP and anti-trafficking organizations as open, positive, and deepening.

28F. The GOP devotes considerable resources to monitoring its borders. The Border Guards continue to receive high marks from Western European counterparts for the quality of their training and effectiveness of their enforcement activities. Thanks to training programs implemented by La Strada, Polish border guards are now trained to detect and assist victims of trafficking. Border Guards discover potential TIP victims most often during document inspections that they hold to check the legality of aliens' stays in Poland. To improve detection and victim identification, police in four border provinces are utilizing a questionnaire developed by Warsaw University for a six-month trial in the first half of

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28G. The Interagency Working Group coordinates activities among the various government agencies and NGOs on trafficking-related matters. Polish officials actively participate in international trafficking conferences. The Polish National Police (PNP) participate in several bilateral task forces that share information, track the movements of traffickers and victims across borders and coordinate repatriations and casework. Bilateral efforts include Polish task forces which work jointly with Czech, German, and Swedish Police forces, and one

multilateral task force that coordinates efforts among Polish and Baltic-nation Police forces on anti-TIP efforts. There is also an active National Anti-Corruption Strategy, managed by the Central Bureau of Anti-Corruption.

28H. In January 2007 the Interagency Working Group adopted the third two-year National Action Plan for Combating Trafficking, which covers 2007-2008. All GOP agencies involved in anti-trafficking efforts consulted with major NGOs, a format that has been used since the first Plan in 2003-2004. The latest Plan sets 18 separate goals in four areas: prevention and research, legislation, prosecution/law enforcement (including international cooperation), and victim support and protection.

14. INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF TRAFFICKERS:  
Answers keyed to paragraph 29 of Reftel

29A. Polish law prohibits forcing individuals into prostitution, trafficking in human beings, and pimping. The relevant sections of the Criminal Code are Articles 204, section 4 (sexual trafficking) and 253 (sexual and non-sexual trafficking) effective since September 1, 1998. The laws cover both internal and external trafficking, and do not require proof that the victim was coerced in order to secure a conviction. Poland has adopted the UN Protocol on Trafficking in Persons (Palermo Protocol). The National Prosecutor's Office uses this definition of trafficking in its prosecutions and states that it has not been adversely affected by the absence of a specific definition in Polish national law. However, NGOs and law enforcement officials indicate that the lack of a definition does negatively impact effective

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prosecution. The Interagency Working Group ranks amending the criminal code to incorporate the Palermo Protocol definition as a major priority of the National Action Plan for 2007-2008.

29B. The maximum penalty for trafficking in persons is 15 years' imprisonment under Article 253 of the Criminal Code (minimum of 3 years' imprisonment). This Article of the Code does not require proof of trafficking connected with prostitution. Article 204, section 4 of the Code provides for up to 10 years' imprisonment for trafficking involving prostitution. This article is not often used, as prosecutors use article 253 in most trafficking cases. Most sentences are shorter than the maximum, with the most severe sentences reserved for those convicted of trafficking minors for the purpose of prostitution or luring/abducting adults into prostitution abroad.

29C. There are no provisions in the criminal code that specifically address trafficking for labor exploitation. Such cases, including the high-profile cases from Italy and Spain (para 29J), are prosecuted under Articles 204 and 253 as described above, or organized crime statutes, as appropriate.

29D. According to Criminal Code Article 197, using violence, threat, or deceit to force a person to have sexual intercourse is punishable by one to 10 years' imprisonment. Using such means to force a person into other sexual activity is punishable by three months' to five years' imprisonment. In cases involving more than one perpetrator or excessive cruelty, the punishment ranges from two to 12 years imprisonment, compared to up to 15 years for trafficking under Article 253. Polish prosecutors have expressed interest in using the multiple perpetrator/excessive cruelty provision of the law to sentence traffickers

to longer sentences, although this has not been tested in court.

29E. Prostitution in Poland is legal; but "pimping" or otherwise profiting from a prostitute's activities is illegal. Under the current version of the Polish Criminal Code, the legal age of consent to sexual activity is 15. Poland has ratified the Palermo Protocol, the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of Children (of May 25, 2000), and the EU Convention on the Rights of Children. All of these

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documents prohibit prostitution by individuals less than 18 years of age. In the opinion of the National Prosecutor's office, according to the Polish Constitution (Art. 87) and international law, the provisions of these documents automatically become part of Polish law and act to prohibit child prostitution as therein defined. Full implementation of the protocols and Convention will require changes, inter alia, in the Polish Criminal, Family and Labor Codes. The prosecutor's office additionally states that anyone (including a parent) assisting a person under the age of 18 to engage in prostitution would be assumed to be benefiting financially from this assistance and would be investigated and prosecuted accordingly.

29F. According to the National Prosecutor's Office, in 2006 the Polish prosecutors concluded 26 investigations, of which 17 resulted in indictments and nine were dismissed due to the lack of sufficient evidence. In the 17 indictments, 36 individuals were indicted under article 253 of the criminal code on trafficking charges, compared to 42 in 2005. 126 victims were involved in the 17 cases that resulted in indictments. 19 of these 126 victims were minors. Of the 36 individuals indicted, there were four Bulgarians and two Ukrainians.

According to the Statistics Bureau of the Ministry of Justice, there were 10 convictions under article 253 of the penal code in the first half of 2006. Of the persons sentenced, seven were sentenced to a maximum of two-years imprisonment, two were sentenced for three years, and one person was sentenced for three-to-five years. These are sentences issued by the first instance courts and are still subject to appeal. Complete sentencing data for 2006 is not available at time of Post's submission for these cases. The complete data for 2005 shows that there were nine convictions under article 253 (human trafficking), and seven convictions under article 204 paragraph 4 (forced prostitution abroad) which were upheld by appellate courts. Of the prison sentences, there were two one-year terms, five one-to-two year terms, five two-year terms, and two each of three and three-to-five year terms of imprisonment. Judges suspended eleven of these sentences, and five individuals convicted are serving their sentences in prison. Of the individuals convicted, all were Polish nationals

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except for one Vietnamese national.

The National Police statistics show that in 2006 police initiated 18 new investigations in which there are nine persons suspected of human trafficking under article 253; and three new investigations with two suspects under article 204 paragraph 4.

29G. Polish police believe that large organized crime groups as well as individual operators control the

trafficking business and that victims are frequently trafficked by nationals of their own country, with Polish traffickers collecting a percentage to allow passage into or through Poland. According to arrest statistics, approximately 25 percent of traffickers are non-Poles. Bulgarian traffickers continue to account for a significant number of cases, although La Strada notes proportionally more Polish women are working in highway prostitution than in the past few years. Other than anecdotal evidence from NGOs that some corrupt police officers are complicit in trafficking, Post has received no information or indication that Polish government officials are involved in trafficking. Police sources believe that employment and talent agencies are sometimes used as fronts for trafficking operations.

29H. The GOP actively investigates trafficking. In March the GOP established a four-person Central Anti-Trafficking Unit (CATU) in the National Police to combat human trafficking, pedophilia, and child pornography. This was enlarged throughout the year, and as of February 2007 boasted 13 full-time officers with liaisons to the Ministry of Interior and Administration, Ministry of Justice, and Central Bureau of Investigation. The CATU also coordinates teams of one to three individuals in each of Poland's 16 provinces. It makes use of advanced law-enforcement techniques, including immunity/mitigation, wire-tapping, covert operations, etc.

Prosecutors' ability to protect other witnesses in trafficking cases is generally limited to withholding of personal data from court records. Victims' depositions may be used in Polish criminal cases even where defense counsel have not had the opportunity to be present or cross-examine witnesses; the Prosecutor's office indicates that it is likely that any defendant's appeal of a conviction based on such

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evidence to the European Court of Human Rights would be successful. Polish Border Guards also have the ability to use advanced law-enforcement techniques but find a shortage of resources limiting their effectiveness in investigating TIP (which is not their primary function). According to the NGO La Strada, aside from high-profile cases, Polish authorities lack sufficient resources to investigate and prosecute the majority of trafficking cases originating in Poland.

29I. Incoming border guards and police officers receive training on the subject of trafficking. Specialized training led by La Strada is conducted at the national law-enforcement training facility for selected personnel. This training involves role-play simulations, legal exercises, film showings, and other awareness-building exercises. Prosecutors throughout Poland have also take part in training, including mock trials. As part of the National Anti-Trafficking Action Plan, all 16 Polish provinces have regional trainings in which police, border guards, justice officials, and social workers received training together on how to detect and assist trafficking victims in their regions. This training is led by La Strada and Ministry of Interior officials. The Ministry of Justice indicates that although training is routinely offered to judges, few take advantage of these optional sessions.

29J. Poland enthusiastically cooperates with other countries in trafficking cases and the repatriation of victims, especially with its closest neighbors. There is cooperation with Germany, Italy, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom, among others. One of the goals in the 2007-2008 National Action Plan



is to establish more joint investigation teams with other nations. The main barrier to increased investigations has been a lack of funds.

In July Italian police, in cooperation with Polish authorities, broke up a ring of labor camps in southern Italy in which more than 300 Polish citizens were held in slave-like conditions after being lured by the promise of high-paying agricultural jobs. Polish police indicate that the level of cooperation with Italian counterparts was excellent. The joint operation has led to the arrest of more than 40 Poles for trafficking offenses; the investigation is ongoing. In December, Polish Justice Minister

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Zbigniew Ziobro met with Italian counterparts to establish a joint prosecution team; Italian officials turned down a formal agreement and instead are cooperating through mirror investigations. The Central Anti-Trafficking Unit also completed successful operations in coordination with law-enforcement officials in Spain, the United Kingdom, and Sweden.

29K. Until it was amended in June, the Polish Constitution prohibited extradition of Polish citizens. Following the change in the Constitution, Parliament amended Article 607t of the criminal code to allow for the extradition of Polish citizens to other EU countries. According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Consular Department, there was one trafficking-related extradition of a Polish citizen from Poland in 2006.

29L. Although the GOP is generally not tolerant of trafficking, there continue to be some credible accusations of lax attitudes among some officials and abuses, including sexual harassment, by individual police officers. This may be attributed to corruption and/or a lack of awareness among rank-and-file officers of the true nature of trafficking and the predicament of victims.

29M. There is no evidence that governmental authorities condone or are otherwise complicit in trafficking activities. GOP law-enforcement agencies are actively increasing both budget and manpower dedicated to detecting and apprehending criminal groups involved in trafficking. There are unconfirmed reports that local police have taken bribes to ignore known trafficking activity. If any such cases were determined to have merit, rules call for the offender to be automatically suspended pending an investigation. To date, there have been no cases of law-enforcement officials punished for trafficking-related corruption.

29N. According to the Nobody's Children Foundation, the leading Polish NGO dealing with trafficking in children, sex tourism has not been identified as a problem in Poland. This NGO does believe, however, that trafficking in children for sexual exploitation is a problem. In 2006 they directly assisted nine foreign children and consulted on another 62 cases

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they believe to have been trafficked into Poland. Nobody's Children also believes there is a problem of Vietnamese boys being forced into prostitution around the Vietnamese open-air market. Due to the problem of identifying victims, however, there was not a single criminal case prosecuted against traffickers of children.

There is no extraterritorial coverage.

290. The GOP ratified the ILO Convention 182 on August 9, 2002, and Conventions 29 and 105 (forced labor) on July 30, 1958. The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) was signed on February 13, 2002. The UN Trafficking Protocol (Palermo Protocol) was signed by the Government of Poland on December 12, 2000, and ratified on September 26, 2003. On September 10, 2004, the Polish Parliament passed a bill ratifying the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Pornography (of May 25, 2000). The ratification bill was signed by the President on December 31, 2004, and entered into force on March 4, 2005. The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, supplementing the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime entered into force on December 25, 2003.

15. (SBU) PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS: Answers keyed to Para 30 of REFTEL

30A. Polish law allows foreign victims to remain in Poland legally during the investigation and trial of their traffickers. At the end of 2005 the Law on Aliens was amended to provide for a reflection period during which foreign trafficking victims are allowed to stay legally in Poland while deliberating whether or not to participate in the prosecution of their traffickers. As of this report, no victims have taken advantage of the reflection period and officials are unsure as to its potential effect. Videoconference testimony from abroad is allowed. Polish victims are eligible for various welfare services. Foreign victims are not eligible for public welfare services; however, in 2006 \$160,000 was provided to La Strada for use in the shelter it opened in 2004, as well as for the care of victims it does not house. During 2006, La Strada

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assisted in the form of shelter or medical/psychiatric care for 199 victims, of which approximately 10 percent were foreigners.

30B. The GOP has consistently increased its funding to victim support and witness protection. In 2006 this funding amounted to nearly \$2 million from the national budget to fund prevention programs and centers for support and crisis intervention. The Center for Women's Rights and shelters operated by Caritas and other Catholic organizations receive funding from local governments. The national government also provides funds to address AIDS prevention and domestic violence.

30C. The Interior Ministry, National Police, and NGOs all indicate that police and border guards have a problem properly identifying victims; however they are generally pleased with the degree of cooperation between law-enforcement and victimsQ assistance organizations. When properly identified, victims are typically referred to the nearest assistance point in Poland. The Polish government is devoting significant resources to training law enforcement officials so that they are better able to identify and assist trafficking victims, including the standard questionnaire currently being used by police in four border provinces (para 27C).

30D. Border guards and police sometimes regard victims of trafficking as criminals who have violated passport laws. However, according to government and NGO

sources, increased training has markedly improved this situation, and most rank-and-file officers now understand the difference between smuggling and trafficking. Polish law continues to require that anyone found within the territory of Poland in an illegal status be deported to the country of origin. Legislation enacted in late 2005 provides for a reflection period of two months during which a trafficking victim is permitted to remain in Poland, receive support and assistance, and decide whether to cooperate with an investigation. NGOs are critical of the implementation of this regulation, and there was at least one case noted by the media where a Vietnamese woman who declared herself to law enforcement as a trafficking victim was deported before receiving the opportunity to stay in Poland. Under the law, victims who decide not to cooperate

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should be returned to their countries of origin, but in such a way as to attempt to shield them from contact with traffickers.

30E. The Polish government encourages and facilitates victim participation in investigations and prosecutions. As indicated above, victims, regardless of their legal status, may now remain in country to assist in the investigations of traffickers. This legal authority was used successfully for the 11 foreign victims who participated in the prosecution of their traffickers in 2006. Polish authorities have not encouraged victims to file civil suits or otherwise take legal action against traffickers. Increasingly, NGOs are working to enhance victims' access to legal service and inform them of their rights. Post knows of no victim restitution program other than repatriation of foreign victims.

30F. The government provides victim assistance through the local NGO La Strada, which currently receives funding from the national government specifically for the care of trafficking victims. Other NGOs such as Caritas and the Nobody's Children Foundation also provide victim assistance throughout Poland. According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, if a Polish victim requests assistance abroad, the Ministry has a list of local NGOs that can support the victims, as well as funds to help the victims return safely to Poland.

30G. Through a cooperative arrangement between the Polish Ministries of Interior and Administration and Foreign Affairs, extensive formal training for consular officials in Polish embassies and consulates abroad is regularly conducted. GOP officials encourage their embassies to develop relationships with anti-trafficking organizations in transit and source countries.

30H. While there is no specific government assistance set aside for repatriated nationals who are victims of trafficking abroad, such persons are eligible for standard unemployment and welfare benefits, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs cooperates with NGOs to identify repatriated Polish victims of trafficking for assistance. NGOs allow repatriated victims to participate in assistance programs and utilize shelters following their return to Poland.

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30I. Numerous international, national, and local organizations are involved in anti-trafficking initiatives in Poland. International organizations such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,

UNHCR, International Organization on Migration, and OSCE are closely involved in anti-trafficking initiatives in Poland. NGOs active in the fight against trafficking include, La Strada, Caritas, Temida Association of Lawyers, Barka Foundation for Mutual Assistance, and the Center for Women's Rights. Prestigious academic institutions such as the Jagiellonian University of Krakow, University of Zielona Gora, and the University of Warsaw are also involved in anti-trafficking education and policy-making. These institutions work closely with local authorities, and the relationship between NGOs and the national government is, by all accounts, excellent. NGO training and projects continue to be the most effective method to enhance Poland's overall anti-trafficking capacity.

16. POLANDQS TIP HERO: Answer keyed to Para 31 of REFTEL

Pawel Maslowski, Chief of PolandQs Central Anti-Trafficking Unit (CATU), is a committed pursuer of human traffickers. In March 2006 the National Police Commandant tapped him to head the new CATU to combat trafficking in human beings, child pornography, and pedophilia. In no small measure due to Mr. MaslowskiQs tenacity and cooperation with both domestic and international groups and officials, Poland has made important strides in the fight against human trafficking. He started his police career in 1991 at the Krakow regional police headquarters, and has been working at the National Police Headquarters for almost two years.

Under his leadership, the team has already had a series of successes in combating international organized criminal groups that deal in human trafficking. The two most notable were "Operation Promised Land," in which in cooperation with Italian police he played a key role in the rescue of at least 119 persons trafficked for forced labor to Italy and arrested 40 perpetrators, and "Operation Valencia," in which police in Spain rescued 21 victims and identified 6 perpetrators.

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A tireless warrior in the fight against human trafficking, Mr. MaslowskiQs commitment and energy constantly shine through. He pushes for better training of law enforcement officials and increased cooperation between government agencies and NGOs, and continuously reaches out to colleagues both within Poland and throughout Europe to improve international cooperation among law enforcement agencies and civil society.

NOTE: Pawel MaslowskiQs name, date of birth, and nationality were cleared by RSO, CONS, and LegAtt here at post. No derogatory information has been found.

17. (SBU) POST COMMENT: The government of Poland fully complies with the TVPAQs minimum standards for elimination of trafficking and has demonstrated a political and financial commitment to improving its anti-TIP programs and cooperation among agencies, NGOs, international organizations and other parties of interest. The GOP has increased training for police, prosecutors and other front-line personnel; continued (and increased) cooperation with neighboring states to combat traffickers; continued anti-corruption training programs; permits trafficking victims to remain legally in Poland to assist in investigations and prosecutions; continued positive development of the National Action Plan and Interagency Working Group; and implemented creative, effective strategies

designed to incorporate international and EU definitions related to trafficking and minors into the Polish legal framework, even when legislation has not yet been enacted to conform Polish criminal and civil law. The Polish government has also demonstrated a financial commitment to assisting trafficking victims through the funds allocated to the National Action Plan. Statistics pertaining to investigations, arrests and prosecutions show a continued commitment to quality investigations and prosecutions. Based on Poland's continued progress and commitment to combating trafficking, Post strongly supports the continued inclusion of Poland in Tier I.

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